

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2007

**SUPREME COURT NAMES DAVID K. OVERSTREET TO JAMES
WEXSTTEN JUDICIAL VACANCY**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Friday the appointment of attorney David K. Overstreet to the office of Circuit Judge in the Second Judicial Circuit, filling the at-large vacancy created by the appointment of Judge James Wexstten to the Appellate Court.

Supreme Court Justice Lloyd A. Karmeier of the Fifth Judicial District recommended the appointment of Mr. Overstreet to the vacancy after an extensive application, evaluation and interview process that included review by an eight-member screening committee appointed by Justice Karmeier.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court is vested with the authority to fill judicial vacancies on an interim basis. The appointment of Mr. Overstreet will be effective May 1. The appointment will terminate December 1, 2008, when the position will be filled at the November 2008 general election.

"I would like to thank the Illinois Supreme Court and Justice Karmeier for the confidence that they have placed in me by this appointment," Mr. Overstreet said. "It is an honor to fill the vacancy left by the appointment of Judge Jim Wexstten to the Appellate Court.

"I am mindful that this vacancy was due to Judge Wexstten's appointment following the untimely death of Appellate Court Judge Terry Hopkins. I knew and greatly admired Judge Hopkins. I look forward to assuming my new judicial duties," Mr. Overstreet said.

Mr. Overstreet is an attorney with broad experience in the general practice of law and a concentration in family law. Since becoming an attorney in 1991, he also has handled matters involving real estate, municipal law and probate.

He began his legal career in 1991 as an associate with Miller, Tracy, Braun & Wilson in Monticello. About a year later, he joined the Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos in Knoxville, Tenn., where he had received his J.D. degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

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Second Circuit Vacancy Filled

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In July 1995, he moved as an associate to the Mount Vernon law firm of Mitchell, Neubauer, Shaw & Hanson, becoming partner in 2000. A year later, he helped form a new firm, Neubauer, Hanson & Overstreet, which today is known as Neubauer & Overstreet.

Before attending law school at the University of Tennessee, Mr. Overstreet graduated magna cum laude in 1988 with a B.S. degree in business management from David Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated from Mount Vernon Township High School in 1984.

He served as an associate member of the Illinois State Bar Association Family Law Section from 2004-2005. He also served as president of the Jefferson County Bar Association from 2003-2004 and its vice-president from 2002-2003.

Mr. Overstreet has long been active in civic and charitable affairs in Jefferson County; he has served with various organizations including the Jefferson County Crime Stoppers, Mount Vernon City School Strategic Planning Committee, Project Excell, Jefferson County Sports Authority, YMCA Y-Guides, Mount Vernon Rotary Club and the Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society of Illinois. Mr. Overstreet has served as a deacon of Mount Vernon Church of Christ since 2001.

Justice Karmeier sought applications for the vacancy through notices distributed to each of the Second Judicial Circuit's judges and circuit clerks. The applications were reviewed by the screening committee; Justice Karmeier made the recommendation after interviewing the four finalists chosen by the Committee.

Members of the screening committee were: Edwards County Public Defender Jerry Crisel; McLeansboro attorney Alan Downen; Benton attorney Richard "Dick" Hart of Hart & Hart; Fairfield attorney Bob Hawkins of Fyie & Hawkins; Mount Vernon attorney Morris Lane Harvey of Harvey & Bradley; Retired Judge Henry Lewis of Carmi; and Lawrenceville attorney Dan Shinkle

Craig Hedin, partner with the Mount Vernon law firm of Campbell Black Carnine Hedin Ballard & McDonald P.C., served as chairperson of the committee.

The Second Judicial Circuit is composed of 12 counties in southeastern Illinois: Crawford, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, and White.